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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1257  
INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 000689

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE, NSC FOR ABRAMS/SINGH/WATERS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PREL](#) [PBTS](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: SETTLERS CONFIRM PLAN TO BUILD NEW UNITS IN ELKANA

11. (SBU) Responding to press reports of new construction planned in Elkana and Ariel, YESHA contacts said the Israeli Ministry of Defense (MoD) approved tenders on April 17 for 52 units in Elkana and 48 in Ariel. These contacts said the Elkana development involves converting 52 "cubiot" caravans to permanent housing, and allows detailed planning for utilities to proceed. They said Elkana's proximity to Tel Aviv (about a 20-minute commute) will cause the new units to "sell like hotcakes," noting that all 80 units recently constructed in nearby Oranit settlement sold "overnight."

12. (SBU) YESHA contacts said the Elkana development was initially planned 3 or 4 years ago, and is one of several constructions plans awaiting approval. Local press quoted Elkana Local Council head Yehuda Cohen noting that Elkana has a separate plan for 100 units awaiting MoD review.  
DUFFY